



Washington State Commission on

Asian Pacific American Affairs

Leader in
ADVOCACY

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E-Legislative Update

March 5– 8, 2012



We are rapidly entering the last week of the legislative session. Sine die, the last day allowed for regular session under our state constitution, falls on March 8, 2012.

With the regular legislative session coming to an end, the House and Senate are expected to approve a capital and operating budget. Lawmakers are currently negotiating a budget that both legislative bodies can support.

Democratic leaders in the House unveiled a plan leaving \$504 million in reserves while making a reduction of \$65 million in higher education and \$224 million in health care and human service programs. Earlier this week, Senate budget writers unveiled a plan that would keep \$370 million in reserves, raise \$31 million by restricting first mortgages and a tax exemption for renewable-energy equipment and reduce distributions to local governments by \$71 million. This budget had no further cuts in K-12 or higher education. Budget proposals can be viewed [here](#).

There is still an opportunity to voice your opinion on the budget by [contacting your legislator](#). You can do so by writing a letter, sending an e-mail, calling the legislator's Olympia office, or by calling the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000.

Because the state budget is an overarching issue, the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs provides updates on important milestones in budget development as well as focuses on bills that impact the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in the areas of education, health care, human services, economic development, and immigration.

The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs provides information weekly through our e-legislative update and website on committee hearings, bills, and other events of interest throughout the legislative session. Our e-legislative update provides a general overview highlighting a few bills of interest to the community while our website hosts a more extensive list of bills utilizing a [bill tracking](#) feature for those community members seeking more information. Highlights from the previous week can be viewed on [TVW's](#) Legislative Review.

Bills passed by the legislature and delivered to the Governor can be viewed [here](#).

Information is current as of: March 1, 2012.

To find out more information on a particular bill, please visit <http://www.leg.wa.gov>.

CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

To receive more electronic updates, visit us at <http://www.capaa.wa.gov>. To unsubscribe, [click here](#).